

November 5th, in nests of *Formica rufa*. These two were the only ones seen, although I examined the contents of two nests. For the identification of both species I am indebted to Mr. Donisthorpe.—HAROLD E. BOX, 55, Baxter Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex: November 15th, 1916.

*Raphidia xanthostigma* Schumm. in Middlesex and Essex.—Amongst a number of miscellaneous insects collected by myself during 1915 were two examples of this uncommon Snake-fly. One of these, a male, was taken at Pinner Hill, near Northwood, Middlesex, on May 24th. It was the only specimen retained from about a dozen seen resting on the bark and leaves of oak and willow trees on the edge of a brook. Two days previous I had been fortunate in capturing a single female in Epping Forest. This specimen was beaten from undergrowth of bramble, etc., in Fairmead Thicket. On June 18th of the following year, whilst searching for *Coleoptera* under beech bark at High Beech, Epping Forest, I found a nearly mature snake-fly larva. On disturbance it exhibited its characteristic habit of running backwards with its head waving from side to side, and rapidly disappeared in a burrow in the bark. On splitting open the piece of bark the creature fell out and was captured. This larva was killed and mounted, and has since been submitted to Mr. K. J. Morton, through whose kindness the two imagines were determined. Mr. Morton was of the opinion that it also was *R. xanthostigma*, but suggested a comparison with Waterhouse's figures and description of the larva of *Raphidia ophiopsis* Schumm. (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., I, 1836, p. 23). I have dissected out the mouth parts, and they agree with Waterhouse's figures. McLachlan, in his "Monograph of the British Neuroptera-Planipennia" (Ibid., 1868, p. 159), says with regard to *R. xanthostigma*: "It is the species to which Mr. Waterhouse's account of metamorphosis will apply, according to his type." I believe that it is unusual for the larvae of *Raphidia* to inhabit beech trees, but Mr. Morton is inclined to think that the insects are more particular as to the condition of the bark and wood than to the species of tree. My larva was taken from a tree which had been felled for some years, but although damp and fungoid in places, the wood was quite sound. I had some little difficulty in removing the bark from the part from which the larva was taken.—HAROLD E. BOX: December 5th, 1916.

*Calliphora vomitoria* captured by an oyster.—About the middle of last September, on opening an oyster from a small consignment that had been sent to me from Whitstable, I was much surprised to observe a large "blow-fly" (*Calliphora vomitoria*) struggle out from between the shells as soon as the oyster knife had cut the adductor muscle. The fly was sufficiently strong for flight, and immediately flew to the nearest window, where it was captured. Examination showed it to be a large female fly and quite unhurt. When the shells were separated a number of eggs of this fly were visible on the upper side of the oyster, but none had so far hatched. Unfortunately, although the fly and oyster were covered by a bell jar, both were lost by a meddling servant before it could be ascertained whether the eggs were viable and would hatch.

Oysters have been recorded as "capturing" many inhabitants of their own domain, and even the feet of shore wading birds have been imprisoned